

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120849

FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GW, UR

SUBJECT: PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT (LUMMUS)

1. WE UNDERSTAND LUMMUS CO. REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE RETURNING TO MOSCOW SHORTLY FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON LARGE PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT. COMMERCIAL OFFICE MAY WISH TO INFORM LUMMUS THAT APRIL 5 ISSUE OF "DER SPIEGEL" REPORTED THAT DURING RECENT MEETING OF FRG-SOVIET JOINT COMMISSION SOVIET CHEMICAL MINISTER KOSTANDOV DISCUSSED CONSTRUCTION OF GIANT 7 BILLION MARK PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX WHICH WOULD PROCESS 12 MILLION TONS OF OIL ANNUALLY. KOSTANDOV IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD FRG BUSINESSMEN THAT BIDDING ON THIS CONTRACT STILL OPEN. ALTHOUGH LACK OF DETAILS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE CERTAIN, PROJECT REFERRED TO MAY BE SAME ONE WHICH LUMMUS IS NEGOTIATING.

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2. IN SAME ARTICLE "SPIEGEL" REPORTS THAT DESPITE HEAVY

WESTERN INDEBTEDNESS, SOVIET DESIRE FOR WESTERN MACHINERY
AND COMPLETE PLANTS APPEARS UNABATED, WHICH REPORTEDLY
FLABBERGASTED WEST GERMANS. WEST GERMANS, HOWEVER, OPENLY
UNCERTAIN HOW SOVIETS PLAN TO FINANCE NEW LARGE PURCHASES,
SOME OF WHICH RUN WELL BEYOND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES OF
FRG. KISSINGER

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